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ABSTRACT

This report, which is designed to develop a clearer perception of the characteristics of single parents in North Dakota, describes single men and women who lived with their children but without a spouse in 1970 and in 1980. The parents' gender, marital status, race, age, income, poverty status; the number of children with whom they lived; and the mothers' labor force participation are discussed. Comparison of the data indicated that in 1980 a total of 1,300 more North Dakotan children lived in a one-parent home than in 1970. Data from 1979 showed that single mothers had median incomes well below that of two-parent family households in the state. Many single parents were impoverished in 1979, but were nevertheless usually employed. Appendices provide 12 tables, 4 figures, and comments on the data sources: the U.S. Bureau of the Census' 1970 and 1980 Public Use Microdata Samples for North Dakota. (RH)

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PREFACE

This report uses data gathered by the United States Bureau of the Census to describe the social and economic characteristics of single parents in North Dakota, 1970-1980.[1] Most terms employed in our discussion, such as *householder* or *family*, have been defined and conceptualized by the Bureau of the Census. Complete definitions usually are not offered in this report. For detailed information about definitions, refer to any of the Bureau of Census publications listed in the reference section.

The Bureau of Census does not utilize the term *single parent*; therefore, it is important to clearly define the differences between single-parent families and other family units. For purposes of this report, single parents include all male or female family householders[2] who (1) have either never married or are widowed, divorced, or married but have an absent spouse[3]; and who (2) reside with their own children[4]. The households of single parents may contain other adults besides the parent. This particular definition of single parents excludes all the single parents who reside in households headed by someone other than the single parent. For example, a single mother who lives with her parents would not be included in the following statistics.

In addition, single-parent families headed by women are not synonymous with either female-headed households or female-headed families, according to the United States Census Bureau usage of these terms. Female family householders do not necessarily reside with their own children but may live with siblings or other relatives. Householders do not live with their own children, by census definition, because the coresidence of parents and children constitutes a *family* household and not a household[5]. Only those

female or male family householders whose own children live with them are considered single parents in this report. (Although some researchers refer to noncustodial parents as single parents [e.g., see Rosenthal and Keshet, 1980], we distinguish between parents who reside with their children and "visiting parents" who do not. See Figure 1.)

It is important to remember that census data are cross-sectional by nature and thus do not indicate the longitudinal flows of persons into and out of single-parent families (see Ross and Sawhill, 1975; Slesinger, 1980). Particularly because single-parent families are often formed for a relatively short duration, static cross-sectional information, no doubt, underreports the number of families who are *ever* headed by a single parent. Because of this, the census figures utilized in this report should be seen as rather conservative portraits of the number of adults and children who have lived at some point in single-parent households.

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INTRODUCTION

Within the past two decades, the number of single parents in the U.S. has grown substantially. Parents who raise their children alone are becoming a much more common thread in the social fabric. Government sources indicate that these families comprised 11.4 percent of all U.S. family households (with own children) in 1970 and 19.5 percent in 1980 (United States Bureau of Census, 1971, 1981). In fact, the number of married-couple families in the United States that contained children at home actually decreased slightly during the 1970s while the number of single-parent families grew by over 2,600,000 (United States Bureau of Census, 1971, 1981).

In North Dakota, 10.6 percent of all families with own children were headed by a single parent in 1980 while only 8.2 percent were in 1970. This growth included a 2,520-family increase in single-mother homes and a 320-unit increase in single-father homes from 1970-1980. Although the number of single parents in North Dakota did not grow as rapidly as the number did nationwide, by 1980 there were 2,840 more single parents in the state than resided here in 1970, which amounts to an increase of 41.2 percent.

This growth is startling, in part, because we know so little about these families. In an effort to develop a clearer perception of the characteristics of single parents in North Dakota, the following discussion describes the single men and women who lived with their children but without a spouse in 1970 and in 1980. Their gender, marital status, the number of children with whom they lived, race, age, income, poverty status, and the mothers' labor force participation are outlined. Unless noted otherwise, all statistics in the text and in the tables of this report were obtained from the Public Use Microdata Census Samples for 1970 and 1980 (see Appendix B for description of data source).

DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

Gender

Females dominate the ranks of single parents. In the United States approximately 90 percent of all single parents in both 1970 and 1980 were women (United States Bureau of Census, 1971, 1981). Interestingly, male single parents have been a bit more common in North Dakota than is the case nationwide. In 1970, 20.3 percent of all North Dakota single parents were fathers, and in 1980, 17.7 percent were male (see Table 1, Appendix A).

Marital Status

Between 1970 and 1980 the number of divorced women and men who became single parents rose dramatically. An additional 2,620 divorced mothers and 520 divorced fathers headed families in this state between 1970 and 1980, which was a 154 percent and 173 percent rise over the 1970 figures, respectively. Never-married mothers in North Dakota had the next greatest relative increase over their 1970 numbers (up 73 percent); an additional 440 never-married North Dakota women were single parents in 1980. Women who were separated from their spouses grew in number by 340, but the number of separated men who were single parents decreased. Interestingly, half of all men who were single parents in 1970 had a spouse who was absent (not in residence) from home at the time of the census enumeration; by 1980 these men accounted for only 24 percent of all single fathers in North Dakota. During the 1970s, widows became a decreasing proportion of the state's female single parents (from 41.8 percent to 17.5 percent). By 1980 most single-parent women and men in North Dakota were divorced (53.9 percent and 47.7 percent, respectively; see Tables 2-4 and Figure 2).

Children

The number of children being raised in single-parent homes in North Dakota also rose in the decade of the 1970s by 1,300 (from 16,800 to 18,100), although the average number of children per single-parent family declined from 2.43 in 1970 to 1.86 in 1980. By 1980, growth in single-parent homes had accumulated in North Dakota such that almost 1 child in 10 (9.6 percent) lived in a single parent home and 7.7 percent of all preschoolers were being raised by a single parent. In fact, a large percentage of the state's single-parent homes had at least one preschooler at home (38.7 percent of single-mother homes and 33.7 percent of single-father homes). Many projections assume that these patterns will not subside. Some suggest that for children born in the United States during the 1970s, as many as 30 percent (Bane, 1977; Bumpass and Rindfuss, 1979) or even 50 percent (Schorr and Moen, 1979) will spend some time as members of single-parent families before they reach the age of 18. Bumpass and Rindfuss (1979) project that, on the average, these children will spend about 4.5 years in single-parent homes before they reach age 18 (see Tables 5-7).

Race

The likelihood of being a single parent varies dramatically by race in the United States. Blacks are overrepresented among single parents in our country. However, 95.8 percent of the population of North Dakota was white in 1980 (United States Bureau of Census, 1982a). The 20,120 Native American Indians who constituted 3.1 percent of the state's population in 1980 are the largest racial minority in North Dakota (United States Bureau of Census, 1982a). Like other minorities in the United States, these men and women also are more likely to be single parents than are whites. In 1970, 7.3 percent of all female single parents in North Dakota were Native American; 13 percent

were in 1980. The number of male Native Americans who were single parents in 1970 was negligible; by 1980 they constituted 8.1 percent of all male single parents in North Dakota. Native American male and female single-parent families represented over two-fifths (42.4 percent) of all Native American families with children in North Dakota in 1980 while white single parents represented about a tenth (9.7 percent) of all white families with own children in the state (see Table 8).

Age

The greatest increases in female and male single parents in North Dakota have been among young adults. The age cohorts of single mothers which grew the most in the state between 1970 and 1980 were between 30-34 years of age (up 156 percent); those 15-24 grew by 110 percent, and those 25-29 years old increased by 95 percent. The number of North Dakota single fathers who were 25-29 and 30-34 grew by 80 percent and 70 percent, respectively (see Table 9 and Figure 3).

ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES

Single-parent families have a unique and largely disadvantaged position in the United States economy. Their standard of living is lower than that of married-couple families, and they are often impoverished.

Income

One economic fact that is difficult to refute is the adverse position that women have in the U.S. economy in comparison with men. It stands to reason then that the economic resources of families which are headed mostly by women would reflect this disadvantageous economic position. And, in fact, the median income of single mothers stands far below that of husband-wife families.

In 1979 single mothers in North Dakota had a median income of $7,585, which amounted to 37.9 percent of the median earnings of husband-wife families with children ($20,035). Single-parent fathers also fared better than single mothers; their median income was about $15,858 in 1979. One obvious reason that husband-wife families had higher incomes is that they often had two or more wage earners in their households. However, even married-couple families (with children) who obtained earnings only from the husband had much higher incomes ($17,914) than did single mothers in North Dakota (United States Bureau of Census, 1982c).

The economic picture is often particularly bleak for single-parent women. The losses in income upon divorce are often staggering, but more than income is lost upon marital disruption. When any family with two parents evolves into a single-parent unit, the family loses the economy of scale it possessed; expenses multiply for rent, transportation, and food (Vickery, 1978). In addition, when the family contains only one parent, members no longer benefit from the unpaid labor which another parent may have contributed to their standard of living.

Poverty

Poverty is found in single-parent homes in the United States more than in any other family form. In 1982, 48.7 percent of all female single-parent families in the United States were poor while only 9.6 percent of married couples with children were in poverty (United States Bureau of Census, 1984). Single parents in North Dakota are a bit less likely to fall within the ranks of the impoverished than is the case for single parents in the United States. Nonetheless, 3,540 single parents in North Dakota had incomes below the poverty level in 1979. Almost two fifths (39.7 percent) of single mothers and one-fifth of single fathers (20.9 percent) who lived in North Dakota were poor

in 1979; only 9.2 percent of all married couples who lived with their own children met the criterion for poverty in North Dakota that year. Native American single parents in North Dakota have been hardest hit by poverty: in 1979, 65.4 percent of these single mothers and 71.4 percent of these single fathers were poor and 32.5 percent of Native American married couples with children also were impoverished (see Table 10).

Most single mothers and fathers who had incomes below the poverty line in 1979 were employed. Poor single fathers were very likely to have worked in 1979 (72.2 percent did) and to have worked full time (66.7 percent did). Impoverished female single parents in North Dakota were much more likely to have worked and to have worked full time than were single mothers in the United States; in 1979, 67.9 percent of poor single mothers in North Dakota were employed (40.3 percent worked full time) while 41.2 percent of all poor single mothers in the United States worked that year. The higher rates of employment hold true for both poor white single mothers (72.8 percent worked in 1979) and poor Native American single mothers (50 percent worked in 1979) in North Dakota. In fact, 44.1 percent of all poor Native American single mothers and 39.2 percent of all poor white single mothers in North Dakota worked full time in 1979; nationally 24.5 percent of poor single mothers worked full time that year. Those householders who were impoverished and employed had families that suffered because they lacked funds and because the employed single parent had less time to do the unpaid labor the family needs to survive (e.g., cooking, cleaning [Brown, 1982]; see Table 11).

Labor Force Participation

The labor force participation rates of single mothers are consistently higher than those of married mothers. By 1979, 71.3 percent of all single mothers in North Dakota with children at home were in the labor force; 51.4

percent of all the state's married mothers worked (United States Bureau of Census, 1982b). Divorcees were the most likely of North Dakota single parents to be employed (74.1 percent) while single mothers who were separated or married but had an absent spouse had the lowest relative employment rates of single mothers in the state (52.4 percent), although they were comparable to the labor force participation rates of North Dakota married mothers (see Table 12).

SUMMARY

While single-parent homes made up a smaller percentage of all families in North Dakota in 1980 than was true for the nation as a whole, single parents became more common in our state from 1970 to 1980. The rise was linked especially to the growing divorce rate. In 1980, 1,300 more children in North Dakota lived in a home that contained only one parent than was the case in 1970. Many Native American children lived with one parent in 1980; about two-fifths of all Native American families with children were headed by single parents in North Dakota that year.

Single mothers, in particular, had median incomes well below that of two-parent family households in the state in 1979. Many single parents were impoverished in 1979. Nevertheless, single mothers and fathers in North Dakota were usually employed in 1979, whether impoverished or not. As a result, many single parents who lived in North Dakota in 1980 managed their numerous work and family responsibilities under very strained economic conditions.

NOTES

1. We would like to acknowledge the helpful comments of George Youngs in preparing this report. Also, we wish to recognize Brenda Ekstrom for her editorial assistance.

2. According to the United States Bureau of Census, a *householder* is the person in whose name a home is rented or owned. The term *householder* first came into use in the 1980 census. Prior to that time, such persons were called household heads (usually synonymous with the husband in married couple families).

3. A married person whose husband or wife was not a member of the same household at the time of the census is called "married, spouse absent." For example, the absent spouse could have been employed and been living away from home, in the Armed Services, or residing in an institution.

4. Census definitions distinguish between *own children* and *related children*. *Own children* are offspring of the householder, whereas *related children* may be grandchildren, cousins, etc. In this report, *children* refer to individuals under age 18.

5. According to census usage, *households* are nonfamily units; a *householder* lives alone or only with persons not related to her or him. A *family household* contains a family householder who lives with one or more persons related to her or him by birth, marriage, or adoption.

APPENDIX A: TABLES

TABLE 1. NUMBER OF FAMILIES WITH OWN CHILDREN IN NORTH DAKOTA, 1970 AND 1980

Type of Family	1970	1980
Married Couple Family	77,600 (91.8%)	81,940 (89.4%)
Female Single Parent* Family	5,500 (6.5%)	8,020 (8.7%)
Male Single Parent* Family	1,400 (1.7%)	1,720 (1.9%)
TOTAL FAMILIES (with own children)	84,500 (100%)	91,680 (100%)

*Single parents are female or male family householders who reside with their own children and without a spouse present.

TABLE 2. NUMBER OF SINGLE PARENTS IN NORTH DAKOTA, BY MARITAL STATUS AND GENDER, 1970 AND 1980

Marital Status	1970		1980		Percent Change, 1970-1980	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Married, Spouse Absent	700	400	420	420	- 40%	+ 5%
Widowed	200*	2300	260	1400	+ 30%	- 39%
Divorced	300	1700	820	4320	+173%	+154%
Separated	100	500	80	840	- 20%	+ 68%
Never Married	100	600	140	1040	+ 40%	+ 73%
TOTAL	1400	5500	1720	8020	+ 23%	+ 46%

Note: Single parents are female or male family householders who reside with their own children and without a spouse present.

*Number falls outside the 95% standard error range for corresponding numbers published in Chapter C of the 1980 census. See Appendix B for further explanation.

SOURCE: Microdata.

TABLE 3. NUMBER OF SINGLE PARENTS IN NORTH DAKOTA, BY GENDER AND MARITAL STATUS, 1980

Marital Status	Gender	
	Male	Female
Married, Spouse Absent	420 (24.4%)	420 (5.2%)
Widowed	260 (15.1%)	1400 (17.5%)
Divorced	820 (47.7%)	4320 (53.9%)
Separated	80 (4.7%)	840 (10.5%)
Never Married	140 (8.1%)	1040 (13.0%)
TOTAL	1720 (100%)	8020 (100.1%)*

Note: Single parents are female or male family householders who reside with their own children and without a spouse present.

*Percent total is more than 100 due to rounding error.

SOURCE: Microdata.

TABLE 4. NUMBER OF SINGLE PARENTS IN NORTH DAKOTA, BY GENDER AND MARITAL STATUS, 1970

Marital Status	Gender	
	Male	Female
Married, Spouse Absent	700 (50.0%)	400 (7.3%)
Widowed	200* (14.3%)	2300 (41.8%)
Divorced	300 (21.4%)	1700 (30.9%)
Separated	100 (7.1%)	500 (9.1%)
Never Married	100 (7.1%)	600 (10.9%)
TOTAL	1400 (99.9%)**	5500 (100.%)

Note: Single parents are female or male family householders who reside with their own children and without a spouse present.

*Number falls outside the 95% standard error range for corresponding numbers published in Chapter C of the 1980 census.
**Percent total does not equal 100 due to rounding error.

SOURCE: Microdata.

TABLE 5. NUMBER OF OWN CHILDREN UNDER 18 IN NORTH DAKOTA, BY TYPE OF FAMILY HOUSEHOLDER AND NUMBER OF OWN CHILDREN PER FAMILY, 1980

Number of Own Children Per Family	Type of Family Householder		
	Married Couple	Female*	Male*
One	27,700	3,740	960
Two	63,160	4,920	800
Three	43,620	3,600	720
Four	22,960	1,520	320
Five	7,900	1,100	--
Six	2,760	--	120
Seven	1,820	140	--
Eight	640	--	160
TOTAL	170,560**	15,020	3,080

Note: "--" denotes no respondent in Public Use Sample with such characteristics.

*No spouse present.
**Number falls outside the 95% standard error range for corresponding numbers published in Chapter B of the 1980 census.

SOURCE: Microdata.

TABLE 6. NUMBER OF OWN PRESCHOOLERS PER FAMILY IN NORTH DAKOTA, BY TYPE OF FAMILY HOUSEHOLDER, 1980

Number of Own Preschoolers per Family	Type of Family Householder		
	Married Couple	Female*	Male*
One	26,420	2,320	360
Two	25,880	1,320	360
Three	5,940	240	120
Four	560	80	--
Five	--	100	--
Six	120	--	--
TOTAL	58,920	4,060	840

Note: Preschoolers are children under six years of age.
"--" denotes no respondent in Public Use Sample with such characteristics.

*No spouse present.

SOURCE: Microdata.

TABLE 7. NUMBER OF OWN CHILDREN UNDER 18 IN NORTH DAKOTA BY NUMBER OF CHILDREN PER FAMILY AND TYPE OF FAMILY HOUSEHOLDER, 1970

Number of Own Children Per Family	Type of Family Householder		
	Married Couple	Female*	Male*
One	21,700	1,900	500
Two	41,600	2,800	1,000
Three	48,900	3,000	300
Four	41,200	2,400	--
Five	22,000	2,500	500
Six	13,200	600	600
Seven	7,000	--	700
Eight	4,000	--	--
Nine	1,800	--	--
Ten	1,000	--	--
Eleven	1,100	--	--
TOTAL	203,500	13,200	3,600

Note: "--" denotes no respondent in Public Use Sample with such characteristics.

*No spouse present.

SOURCE: Microdata.

TABLE 8. NUMBER OF SINGLE PARENTS IN NORTH DAKOTA, BY RACE AND GENDER, 1980

Race	Gender	
	Male	Female
White	1,580 (91.9%)	6,920 (86.3%)
Black	--	--
Native American	140 (8.1%)	1,040 (13.0%)
Asian	--	60 (0.7%)
Spanish Origin	--	--
Other	--	--
TOTAL	1,720 (100%)	8,020 (100%)

Note: Single parents are female or male family householders who reside with their own children and without a spouse present.
"--" denotes no respondent in the Public Use Sample with such characteristics.

Source: Microdata.

TABLE 9. NUMBER OF SINGLE PARENTS IN NORTH DAKOTA, BY AGE AND GENDER, 1970 AND 1980

Age of Single Parent	1970		1980		Percent Change, 1970-80.	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
15-24 years	100	600	100	1,260	+ 0%	+110%
25-29 years	100	800	180	1,560	+80%	+ 95%
30-34 years	200	500	340	1,280	+70%	+156%
35-44 years	600	2,200	540	2,300	-10%	+ 5%
45-54 years	400	1,100	300	1,280	-25%	+ 16%
55-64 years	--	300	200	340	NA	+ 13%
65+ years	--	--	60	--	NA	0%
TOTAL	1,400	5,500	1,720	8,020	+23%	+ 46%

Note: Single parents are female or male family householders who reside with their own children and without a spouse present.
"--" denotes no respondent in Public Use Sample with such characteristics.
"NA" denotes not applicable.

SOURCE: Microdata.

TABLE 10. NUMBER OF IMPOVERISHED HOUSEHOLDERS (WITH OWN CHILDREN) IN NORTH DAKOTA, BY RACE AND TYPE OF FAMILY HOUSEHOLDER, 1980.

Type of Family Householder	Race				
	White	Native American	Asian	Spanish Origin	Other
Married Couple	6,920 (71.5%)	520 (40.0%)	60 (100%)	20 (100%)	20 (100%)
Male*	260 (2.7%)	100 (7.7%)	--	--	--
Female*	2,500 (25.8%)	680 (52.3%)	--	--	--
TOTAL	9,680(100.0%)	1,300(100.0%)	60 (100%)	20 (100%)	20 (100%)

Note: Standard error calculations were not performed for this table since comparable published information is not available.
"--" denotes no respondent in the Public Use Sample with such characteristics.

*No spouse present.

SOURCE: Microdata.

TABLE 11. NUMBER OF IMPOVERISHED SINGLE PARENTS IN NORTH DAKOTA, BY GENDER, RACE, AND EMPLOYMENT IN 1979.

Employment in 1979	White		Native American	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Employed in 1979	180 (69.2%)	1,820 (72.8%)	80 (80%)	340 (50%)
Employed Full Time in 1979	(160)	(980)	(80)	(300)
Not Employed in 1979	80 (30.8%)	680 (27.2%)	20 (20%)	340 (50%)
TOTAL	260 (100%)	2,500 (100%)	100 (100%)	680 (100%)

Note: Single parents are female or male family householders who reside with their own children and without a spouse present.
Standard error calculations were not performed for this table since comparable published information is not available.

SOURCE: Microdata.

TABLE 12. NUMBER OF FEMALE SINGLE PARENTS IN NORTH DAKOTA, BY MARITAL STATUS AND LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION, 1980

Labor Force Participation	MARITAL STATUS				
	Married, Spouse Absent	Widowed	Divorced	Separated	Never Married
Employed	220 (52.4%)	860 (61.4%)	3,200 (74.1%)	440 (52.4%)	640 (61.5%)
Unemployed	20 (4.8%)	40 (2.9%)	220 (5.1%)	40 (4.8%)	40 (3.8%)
Not in Labor Force	180 (42.9%)	500 (35.7%)	900 (20.8%)	360 (42.9%)	360 (34.6%)
TOTAL*	420 (100.1%)	1,400 (100.0%)	4,320 (100.0%)	840 (100.1%)	1,040 (99.9%)

Note: Single parents are female or male family householders who reside with their own children and without a spouse present.

*Total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding errors.

SOURCE: Microdata.

APPENDIX B: FIGURES

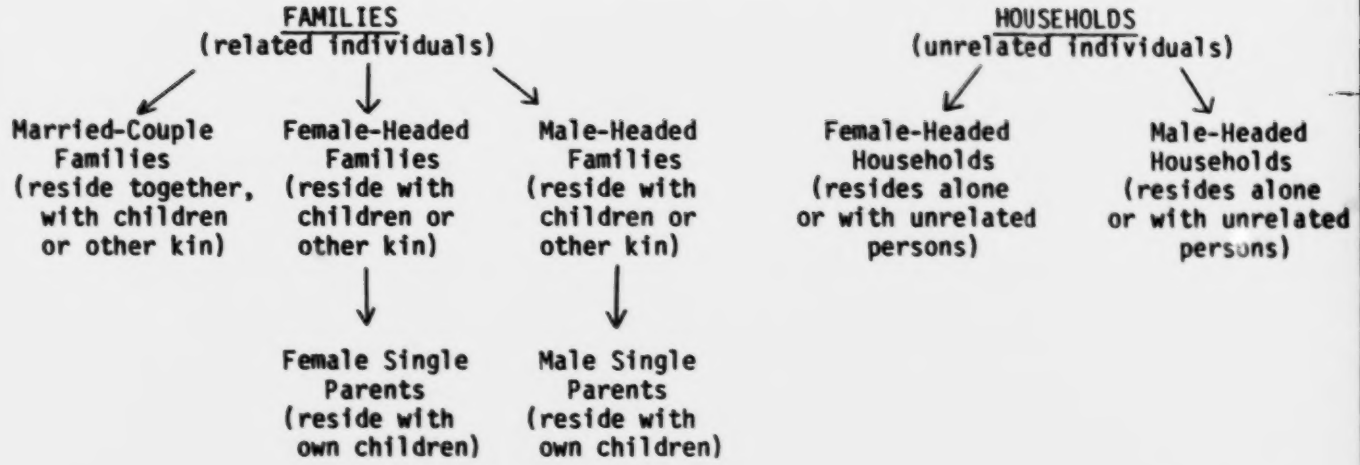
FAMILIES
(related individuals)
Married-Couple Families (reside together, with children or other kin)
Female-Headed Families (reside with children or other kin)
Male-Headed Families (reside with children or other kin)
Female Single Parents (reside with own children)
Male Single Parents (reside with own children)
HOUSEHOLDS
(unrelated individuals)
Female-Headed Households (resides alone or with unrelated persons)
Male-Headed Households (resides alone or with unrelated persons)

FIGURE 1. CONCEPTUAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN FAMILIES AND HOUSEHOLDS

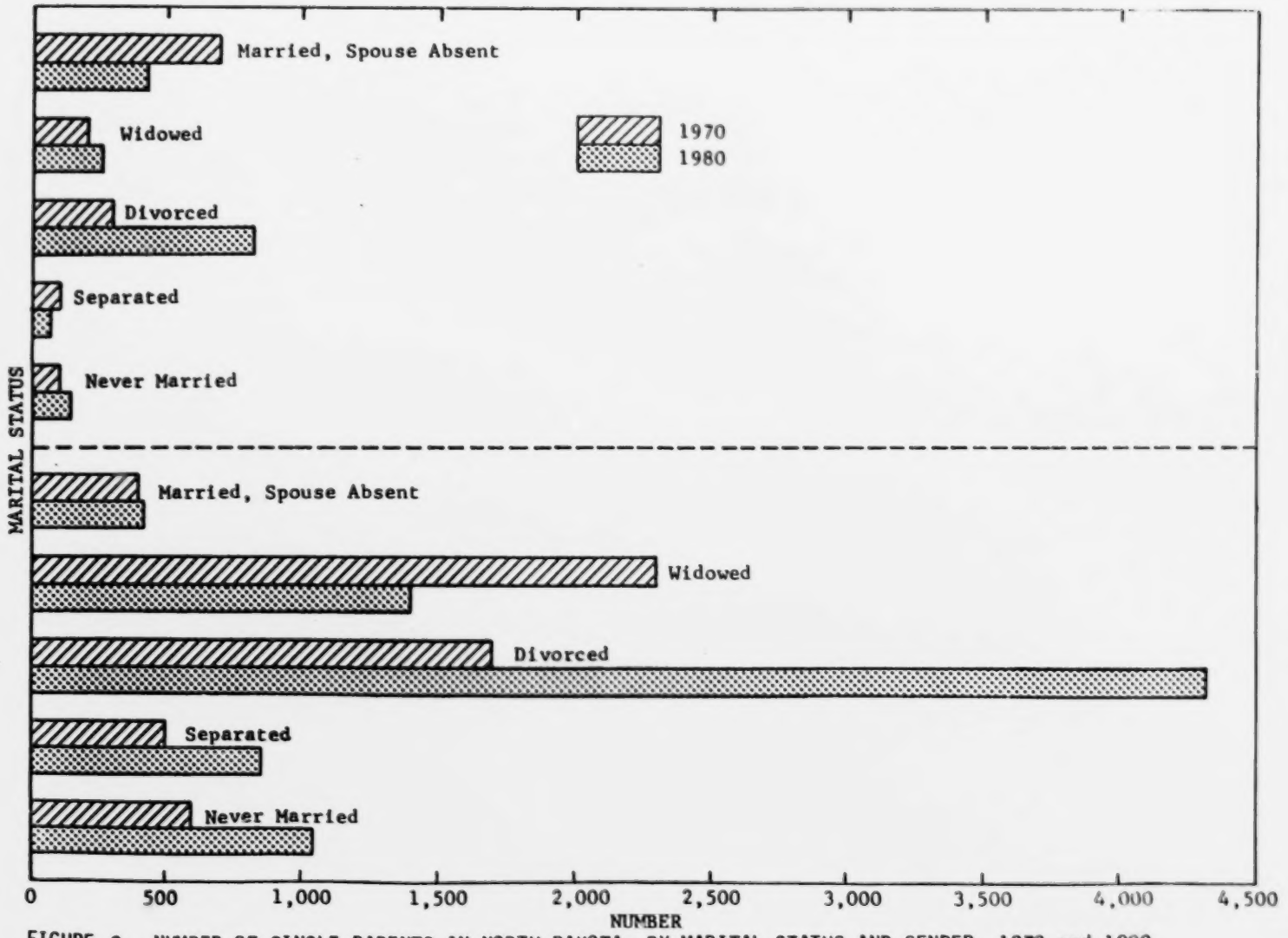

FIGURE 2. NUMBER OF SINGLE PARENTS IN NORTH DAKOTA, BY MARITAL STATUS AND GENDER, 1970 and 1980

SOURCE: Table 2

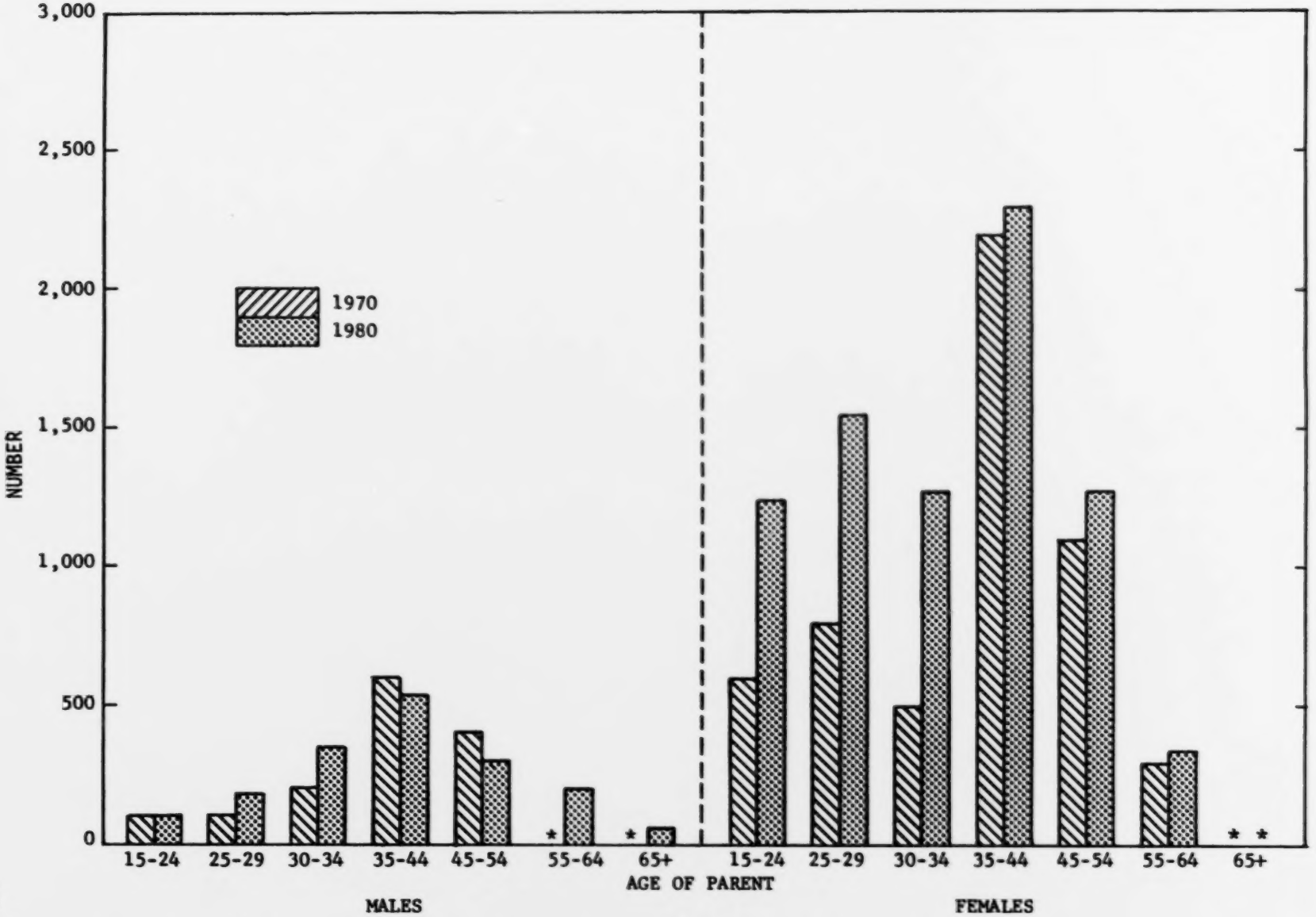

FIGURE 3. NUMBER OF SINGLE PARENTS IN NORTH DAKOTA, BY AGE AND GENDER, 1970 AND 1980

*Denotes no respondent in Public Use Sample with such characteristics.

SOURCE: Table 9

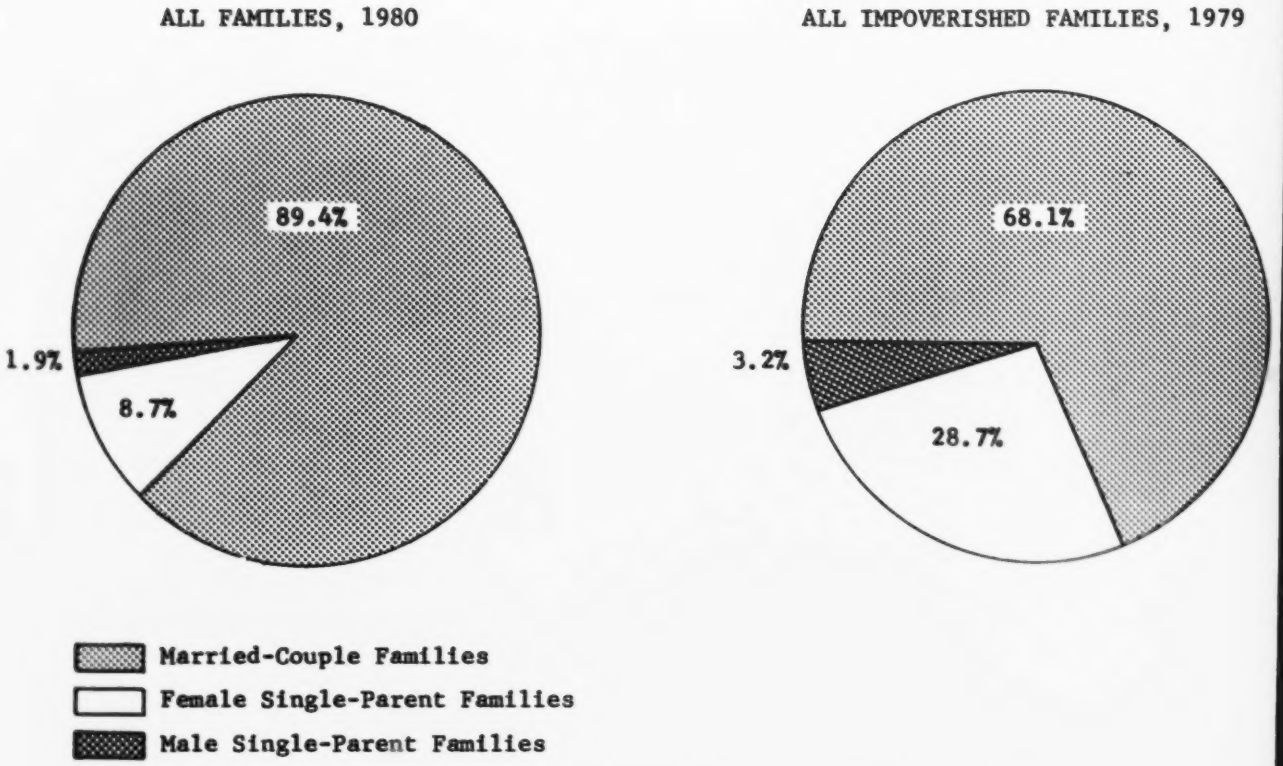

FIGURE 4. ALL FAMILIES IN NORTH DAKOTA IN 1980 AND IMPOVERISHED FAMILIES IN NORTH DAKOTA IN 1979

SOURCE: Microdata

APPENDIX C: EXPLANATION OF DATA SOURCES

EXPLANATION OF DATA SOURCES

The data for this report are derived from the 1970 and 1980 Public Use Microdata Samples for North Dakota. These probability samples are constructed by the U.S. Bureau of the Census from information obtained from the decennial census of population and housing for 1970 and 1980. They contain information for a 5 percent probability sample of all North Dakota housing units in 1980 (N = 47,145) and a 15 percent probability sample of all North Dakota housing units in 1970 (N = 8,444).

The Public Use Microdata files contain unaggregated records of individuals and housing units in the state. This flexible format allows for tabulations of any combination of indicators from questions asked on the population and housing census questionnaire, an option not available from the summary tape files (STF). In addition, the samples are self-weighting; thus, estimates for the entire population could be calculated. Comparison with available published tabulations were made to verify the accuracy of the figures reported in this document; a 95 percent confidence interval was used. In two cases (e.g., the number of widowed males in 1970), as noted in tables #2, #4, and #5, our microdata tabulation falls outside the 95% confidence interval for comparable published census data. In tables #10 and #11, calculation of the standard error was not performed because comparable published information is not available.

It is important to note that the statistics found in this report are estimates based on a sample; thus, the figures may vary somewhat from those found in other reports or census documents. In addition, the reader should be aware that these data are subject to nonsampling bias; errors produced during reporting, coding, or handling of the questionnaires. Although accuracy checks were statistically made to ensure the reliability of the information, it is always wise to utilize caution. For a more detailed discussion of the data base and possible errors, see the following technical documents:

U.S. Bureau of Census
1983 Census of Population and Housing, 1980: Public Use Microdata Samples Technical Documentation. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office.

U.S. Bureau of Census
1972 Public Use Samples of Basic Records From the 1970 Census: Description and Technical Documentation. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office.

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